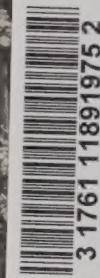


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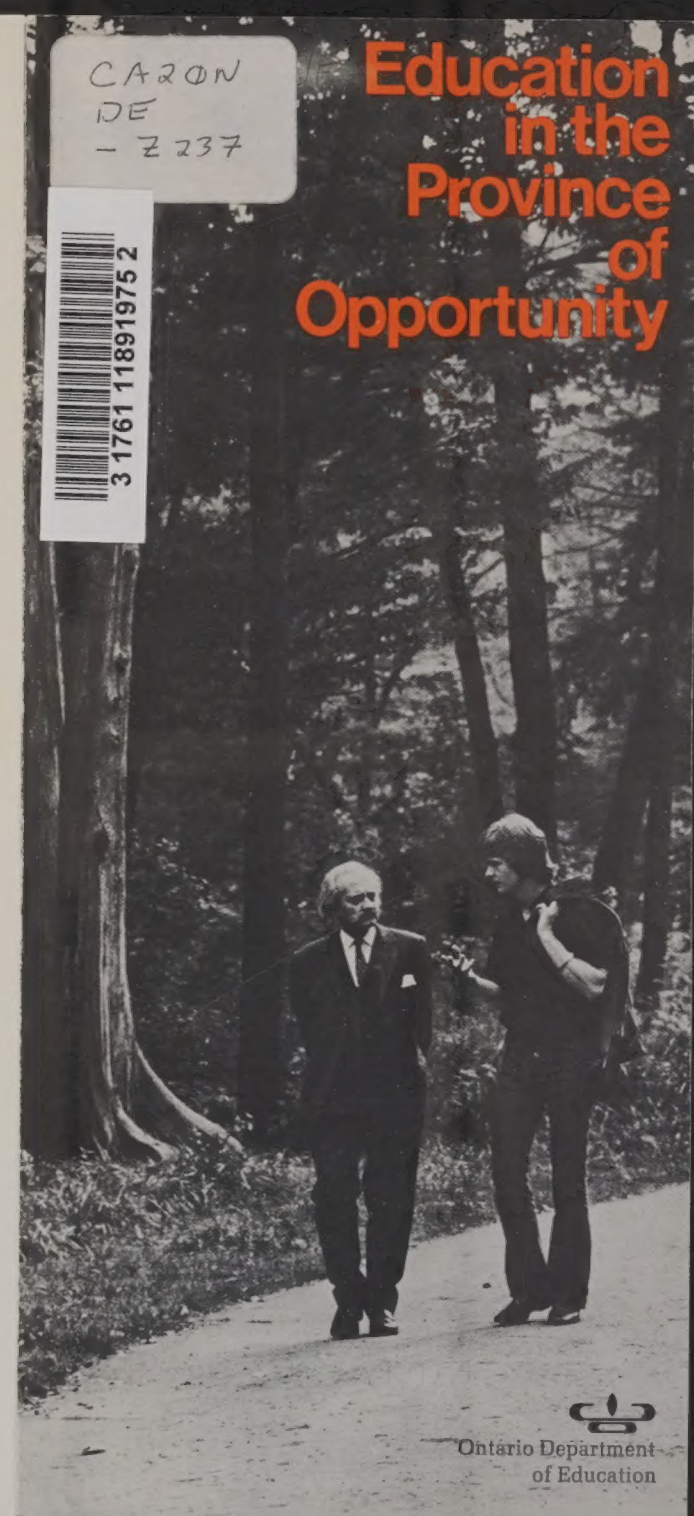


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Education in the Province of Opportunity



Ontario Department
of Education

Education in the Province of Opportunity

The Ontario Department of Education is responsible for the provision of educational opportunities for all the people of the province. As the central education authority, the Department makes overall policy and is responsible for long range planning.

The broad aims of the Department are to provide a system with flexibility, diversity and personal involvement, offering each student and adult the freedom to choose and learn according to his needs, interests, and capabilities.

Responsibility for operational decisions and planning at the local level is delegated to elected trustees of local school boards assisted by their appointed officials. The Department provides resources to aid the trustees and officials in establishing a decentralized curriculum, individualized programs and a multidisciplinary approach to learning.

The Department concentrates the largest part of its public funds on the improvement and growth of the school system and in 1970, \$825,000,000 have been made available to school boards toward the cost of elementary and secondary school education. The amount represents 51 per cent of the estimated total cost of elementary and secondary school education in the province. The grants are paid directly to the local school boards for use in meeting the costs of instruction, student transportation, school building and renovation, and administration.

The Department also allocates funds for innovative research, such as that carried out by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. The Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and the Province of Ontario Council for the Arts are also funded through the Department of Education.

The Department provides most elementary school teacher training. Curriculum resource services to the decentralized school boards are provided through program consultants working out of regional Department offices strategically located across the province.

A major reorganization of school jurisdictions took place on January 1, 1969, when the province's 1,358 boards operating schools were consolidated into 192 boards. There were on January 1, 1969, 235 school boards in Ontario, including 22 boards not operating schools besides the 21 boards responsible for education in hospitals, sanatoria and other treatment centres. The major aim of the reorganization was to provide equality of educational opportunity for all students. The result has been that the larger units of administration have been able to embark on long term planning activities and to provide a wider variety of educational services, such as kindergarten and special education, that previously had been available only in the larger school board jurisdictions.

Ontario's Students

In 1970, for the first time, the total elementary and secondary school enrolment in Ontario has exceeded two million. More than 26 per cent of Ontario's entire population is enrolled in elementary and secondary schools. Of that total, over 15,000 students are new immigrants during the last year.

In 1968, the average operating cost of providing education in Ontario was \$441 per elementary school student and \$900 per secondary student.

Project School-to-School links 3,000 elementary and secondary school classrooms in Ontario with an equal number of Caribbean classes in international partnerships for understanding. Operation School Supplies sends classroom furniture, books and equipment to several Commonwealth Caribbean countries. The Department of National Defence helps to transport the supplies, which are contributed by school boards, service clubs, publishers and individuals.

During the summer of 1970, more than 1,000 Ontario students participated in the Young Voyageur Program, the Federal-Provincial Travel and Exchange Project for secondary school students. Over 500 Ontario students, in 25 groups, travelled to other provinces and the same number of Young Voyageurs visited Ontario where they were hosted by students in 25 Ontario communities. The program is co-ordinated by the Ontario Department of Education.



Ontario's Teachers

In September 1971, requirements for entry into courses leading to elementary teacher certification will be raised from the present 60 per cent grade 13 average. Applicants will be required to have completed one year of a university degree program beyond grade 13.

In 1969, there were 57,587 elementary school teachers and 32,342 secondary school teachers in the schools of the province.

To upgrade their professional qualifications, more than 14,800 of these teachers took Department of Education summer courses, and 7,031 enrolled in board-sponsored winter courses.

To help provide qualified teachers in isolated areas of Northern Ontario, the Department established Ontario Northern Corps in 1966. Teachers holding Ontario certification, demonstrating special sensitivity and adaptability, sign a one-year contract and attend a one-week orientation course during August. In 1969 the number of Northern Corps teachers was increased from 25 to 30.

Departmental Services

Applied Arts and Technology: Ontario has 20 Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology located in major centres throughout the province. The colleges are community oriented, providing a wide variety of post secondary education in the technological, business and applied arts fields for both secondary school graduates and adults. The colleges have a full-time enrolment of more than 30,000 students and an equal number are enrolled in apprenticeship and adult retraining programs. It is expected that enrolment in evening and extension programs during the coming winter will be twice the full-time enrolment.

Correspondence Courses: For 50,000 Ontario residents unable to attend school, school goes to them by means of a broad cross-section of elementary, secondary school and vocational correspondence courses. Textbooks in grades 1 to 12, science kits, and French records are provided on loan; paper, envelopes and postage are supplied without cost to the student.

Educational Television: In 1970 the Ontario Educational Communications Authority was established to undertake an expanded program of educational television in Ontario. In September the Authority's Channel 19 went on the air, its telecasts reaching more than 3 million viewers in Southern Ontario from Oshawa to St. Catharines and north to Orangeville. The station, Canada's first full-time educational

television channel, offers a full range of programs from pre-school through teacher and adult education programs. It is the objective of the Authority to initiate, acquire, produce and distribute programs and materials in the educational broadcasting and communications field.

Provincial Library Service: Public library service in Ontario is organized into 14 regional library systems, including four in the north of the province. Ontario has one of the highest per capita book circulations in North America, with films and other information items, totalling about 49 million units. The total does not include circulation by school, college and university libraries. In 1969, public library boards received provincial grants totalling \$7,260,000.

Youth and Recreation Programs: The Department's Youth and Recreation Branch provides youth with cultural and athletic programs and services, and assists people throughout the province to use their leisure time enjoyably and creatively. An organization called Sport Ontario represents the 56 sports-governing bodies, and Ontario Youth Theatre offers training and experience in the theatre arts.

Registrar's Section: The Registrar evaluates the educational documents of immigrants in terms of the level of Ontario elementary and secondary school training. Individual evaluations of educational standing are also made for purposes of admis-

sion to teachers' colleges, and the upgrading of teachers' certificates. There is no charge for these evaluations.

Special Education: The Department of Education provides extensive assistance to boards in developing programs for children who are physically handicapped, mentally retarded, educationally retarded, perceptually handicapped, emotionally disturbed, partially sighted, blind or deaf. The creation of larger units of administration has enabled the boards to provide facilities for more effective education for children with learning disabilities. The Department operates schools for the deaf at Milton and Belleville and the Ontario School for the Blind in Brantford. In cooperation with the Department of Health, the Department of Education provides the school programs for the mentally retarded in seven Ontario Hospital Schools.

